

Amusements To-Night.

THEATRE	PERFORMANCES
AMERICAN THEATRE—Roller skating.	
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Index to Advertisements.

Page	Col.	Page	Col.
Amusements	1	Disasters	1
Amusements	1	Disasters	1
Amusements	1	Disasters	1
Amusements	1	Disasters	1
Amusements	1	Disasters	1
Amusements	1	Disasters	1
Amusements	1	Disasters	1
Amusements	1	Disasters	1
Amusements	1	Disasters	1
Amusements	1	Disasters	1

Business Notices.

A THROUGH PARLOR CAR TO ATLANTIC CITY has been placed on train leaving N. Y. at 1 p. m. on Wednesday E. R. R. The car is open all the year.

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New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

NEW-YORK, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—The discussion of the motion to censure the Government was interrupted in the English House of Commons by the House Rules members, one of whom was suspended. It is semi-officially stated that Russia has no wish to disturb the Afghan frontier. Queen Victoria sent a letter of sympathy to General Gordon's sister. Martial law has been proclaimed in the Colombian States. Michael Davitt failed to obtain an audience of the Pope.

CONGRESS.—The Senate passed the bill authorizing the President to negotiate for the purchase of the Indian rights in the Oklahoma lands. In the House the River and Harbor bill discussion was continued.

DOMESTIC.—The report of the Quarantine Commissioners was presented to the Assembly at Albany. Two families barely escaped the flames in Philadelphia; an old woman was burned to death in Baltimore. Mr. Morrison's election in Illinois is asked for by Mr. Cleveland. An unknown young man committed suicide at Lynn, Mass., will be disbanded because of trouble with their captain. The summing up for Rockwell, in the Wainwright murder trial, is ended.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.—Election studies discussed by Presidents Eliot and McCosh. An elevated road employee shot by a young woman. Meeting in the interest of the Brooklyn Citizens' Excise League. Prize-fighters and spectators arrested in Brooklyn. A bunco game near the Grand Central Depot. Burial of the victims of the Beaver-st. fire. Pinning in several school buildings reported defective. A young woman shoots her aunt. Explosions in a downtown sewer. Death of Father Cleon. Gold value of the legal-tender silver dollar (412.2 grains), \$3.46 cents. Stocks opened buoyant and with alternate spasms of activity and depression. The weather continued and closed strong.

THE WEATHER.—Thirteen local observations indicate slightly warmer, cloudy weather, and light snow or rain. Temperature yesterday: Highest, 28°; lowest, 12°; average, 21°.

In these times of financial depression it is a great satisfaction to know that the banks holding the savings of the poor in this State are in a satisfactory condition. This is made clear by the report of the Banking Superintendent. While the total expenses of the banks have decreased in the last twelve months, the cost of looking after each individual account is saved cents greater than a year ago. The poor saved and deposited six millions in 1884 and 17,586 new accounts were opened.

Land under water has never been regarded as the best kind of property; but if bill No. 19 in the New-Jersey Senate ever becomes a law people who have any claim to the bottom of the western side of New-York Bay will rejoice. By this measure the New-Jersey Riparian Commissioners are directed to sell such lands; but it is evident that they must first acquire title to the same. Even at this distance both politics and jobbery seem to be concealed in the bill; and to THE TRIBUNE's correspondent at Trenton they are quite apparent.

We presume that the Legislature will promptly vote the appropriations asked for by the Quarantine Commissioners to pay for precautionary measures against the visitation of cholera. They do not seem extravagant on their face, and while they should not be granted blindly it will be remembered that a grave responsibility rests upon these commissioners. They are expected to keep the cholera out of this port next summer, and if they are to accomplish this they must be allowed to do it in their own way; and their bills must be paid.

Recorder Smyth is helping on a needed reform in the administration of justice in this city by preventing unnecessary delay in the trial of cases. Mr. Nicoll, of the District-Attorney's office, stood ready yesterday according to agreement to proceed against the rich proprietor of a Chatham-st. resort, whose counsel pro tem, tried hard to get a long adjournment; but if was of no use, and the man of "influence" secured only six days' retirement in jail. The Recorder could not have scored a better point in his own favor, unless he had insisted that the trial should go on yesterday without any delay at all.

The police of Brooklyn deserve credit for not only having broken up a prize-fight, but for actually capturing the principals and the spectators. Among the latter a Justice from Long Island City cuts a sorry figure, and, with the prize fighters, has been put under bonds for trial. Now, let the District-Attorney of Kings County do his duty and give these fellows all the law allows. In striking contrast with the hard luck of these unknown slugs, it may be noted that "Charley" Mitchell called upon the Lieutenant-Governor of Canada yesterday at the latter's request. Is the Lieutenant-Governor thinking of putting money up on Mitchell,

we wonder; or does he merely wish to encourage prize-fighting in general?

Interest in the Nineteenth Century Club was revived last night by the remarks of the presidents of Harvard and Princeton in regard to elective studies and college government. Much of what the speakers said on this complicated subject has been said before, but President Eliot's paper will attract attention owing to the recent departure at Harvard in regard to Greek. President Eliot thinks the American college boy knows what he wants to study and how he should behave. Dr. McCosh believes that he needs considerable direction and discipline. Plausible arguments can be advanced on both sides, but experience during the last decade or so will do more to settle the disputed points than all the arguments of learned doctors.

Commissioner Rogers's letter, printed in today's TRIBUNE, fails to meet all the objections to the Railroad Commission bill, now before the Legislature. If that bill should become law the Commission would have power not only to fix transportation rates on railroads, but to make any change in the mode of operating a road or conducting its business that might seem expedient to the Commission. The Supreme Court is authorized to compel compliance with all such orders by mandamus. Such extraordinary power should not be conferred on a Commission, subject to political change, without stronger reasons than Mr. Rogers furnishes. To say that a judge must consider a recommendation just and reasonable will not count for much in the light of recent injunctions. As Mr. Rogers says, the Commission ought to be able to force compliance with existing laws. To such an amendment no objection could be made. And in that respect making the findings of the Commission prima facie evidence to proceed upon does not seem unreasonable.

DELATED REPENTANCE.

One week from to-day, this Congress will cease to exist. Part of this remaining week the Democrats in Congress are to spend in a desperate effort to lift the country out of a peril in which they insisted it should be kept, so long as there was a chance of Republican success in the Presidential election. Uncertainty as to the future, distrust of capital, prostration of industry, all these suited them, so long as they tended to bring about a defeat of the Republican party. Now they begin to be anxious that the consequences of their own persistent refusal to suspend the silver coinage may not bring disaster on the coming Administration. So there is to be a desperate effort, as if the men had just waked up to the fact that the coinage of many millions of useless silver threatens repudiation of public obligations, and a commercial and industrial earthquake. What have these men been doing all these years? How does it come to pass that here, at the very end of the session, they are suddenly seized with a desire immediately to undo what they have been doing for seven long years? Democratic repudiators in Congress forced through the Silver bill at the outset, and passed it over the veto of a Republican President. Again and again they refused to give a Republican President any power whatever to avert National disgrace or industrial calamity by suspending the coinage. Then it suited them perfectly that National disgrace and industrial calamity should come. A Republican Administration being in power, they hoped that distress and discontent, and the disorganization of industry, would help to bring about a political change.

Now these men are particularly anxious to stop the very work in which for seven years they have been engaged. The mischief has been done. Nevertheless, if they have the decency to propose a straightforward and honest suspension of the coinage they will find Republicans ready to help. But that is not what they want. They are not willing to confess that their own conduct during all these years has been against the public welfare. They want to secure for an untired Democratic President the unprecedented trust of exercising a discretionary power in this matter. As to that they deserve to fail. Let them stop the coinage like men, by a direct vote, on the ground that its longer continuance is dangerous to the public. If they dare not do this, let them prepare to face the consequences.

A few men, it is said, can now defeat any measure proposed by filibustering. Very likely; and whose fault is it that action on this matter has been delayed year after year, month after month, and week after week, until it is possible for a few men to defeat action? Why was not the coinage suspended years ago, when both Houses were practically Democratic? Why was it not done last year, when an overwhelming Democratic majority in the House was preparing for a Presidential election? Why was it not proposed at the beginning of this session, when business men from every part of the country were imploring Congress to act? The few silver fanatics have power at this juncture, only because the Democratic party has for years been false to the public interest. It will have to take the consequences, and if they do not suit Mr. Cleveland and his immediate friends, let him remember that his success in the election was in a measure due to the prostration of industry and of business which his party had so long conspired to bring about.

MR. GLADSTONE'S DEFENCE.

Mr. Gladstone has the fine books to answer as well as Sir Stafford Northcote. This is his chief misfortune in the present debate. There is no orator in the ranks of the Opposition who can rival him in argumentative subtleties, dignity of manner and lucidity of style. But while he may succeed in silencing his critics and in defeating the motion of censure, he will inevitably fail to convince the present or any future generation of Englishmen that his Administration has shown either courage, sagacity or common prudence in its operations in the Nile Valley. When the full text of his speech arrives a week hence, we may find it a brilliant and ingenious plea, with a crushing rejoinder to Sir Stafford Northcote's argument in favor of British responsibility for portions of the Sudan. But the abstract given in the cable dispatches convinces us that the Prime Minister has failed to make a speech which can be read side by side with the official dispatches in the blue books. He replied to his critics with characteristic energy and dialectic skill, but he could not argue away the facts.

The Prime Minister, for example, denied that the Government had reason a year ago to suppose that General Gordon was in imminent danger, and contended that it had not served from its covenant to send assistance to him. The blue books contain a continuous record of appeals for aid from Khartoum. As soon as General Gordon arrived in the city he asked for troops, the appointment of Zobeir, and the adoption of a positive policy. On February 27, 1884, he requested the Government to send 200 British soldiers up the Nile, and during the following month he repeated his despairing appeals, urging first a movement of General Wood's forces to Berber by way of Dongola, and subsequently an advance from Suakin. On April 16 Khartoum was cut off from communications with the outer world, and from that time

was in imminent danger. Every application he had made for aid had been denied; every proposal, whether for Turkish, Egyptian or British troops, or for the co-operation of the most powerful chief in the Sudan in the pacification of the country and the release of the garrisons, had been rejected; and he had been left to his own resources—abandoned to his fate. The blue books show that General Gordon's perilous situation was known for months before the relief expedition was organized, and that the difficulties in his path were multiplied by the refusal of the Government to take his advice, to define its policy, and to give him adequate authority and support.

Another glaring instance of special pleading is the Prime Minister's assertion that General Gordon had led the Government to believe that he would retreat southward. On March 13 Sir Evelyn Baring had telegraphed to him on no account to proceed to the Bahr-Gazelle and Equatorial Provinces. Twelve days afterward Lord Granville sent this message to Khartoum: "We desire to leave full discretion to General Gordon to remain at Khartoum, if he thinks 'necessary, or to retire by the southern or any other route which may be found available.'" This was the last message until the autumn, and it was in reply to one from General Gordon, containing these sentences: "I am glad to say that without exception the people and the troops have behaved themselves in a most kind and proper way. This binds me not to leave them until I can do so under government 'which would give them some hope of peace.'" The blue books show that General Gordon had persistently asserted that he could not leave the city and that he had received authority to remain there. The idea of retreating southward was a desperate expedient of which he was to avail himself if he found that he could not maintain his position at Khartoum. If the Government really believed that he had gone to the Equator and, consequently, was beyond reach, it could not have made a very careful study of the official dispatches.

FREE-TRADE REJOICING.

Four months ago they were all protesting that the tariff was not an issue. Monday night they indulged in a free trade banquet to celebrate their victory. Naturally the Reverend Mr. Beecher was there, and made a speech of the Beecher variety. Professor and ex-Reverend Sumner was there with his usual supply of insolence and untruth. Senator Bayard wrote a letter, which will amuse some of his former admirers and disgust others; for, instead of denouncing the free trade fad, he praised it and denounced the tariff. The cat-footed candidate for a nomination four years hence now judiciously observes that this is "a topic deserving great consideration." Colonel Vilas, of Wisconsin, also communicated his views by letter. Mr. Beecher, in particular, gave vent to a little more of the same feeling which once upon a time prompted his well-known observation about "bread and water." Referring apparently to some adopted citizens who are not in favor of free trade, he said: "I have no sympathy with that flock of 'birds' that come from across the sea with obscene beaks and talons, and settle down here 'to attempt to teach us how to govern our own country.'" Mr. Beecher will probably hear of his remark often than he likes in the years that are coming. For the present it is enough to say that it hardly becomes him, after his speeches in regard to the Seventh Commandment in the recent campaign, to find fault with the beaks and talons of any other people on the score of obsecrity.

These free-trade saviors have a right to rejoice. So they had a right to advocate their peculiar views and to seek the election of a President in harmony with them; but they had no right to tell lies about it. Apparently they have succeeded in electing a President who was better known to them than to other people, and who stooped to secure a success by deceiving the public as to his opinions. They gained a victory by vilely slandering better men than themselves, and by unlimited lying about their own purposes. Let them remember that a victory so gained ever turns to Dead Sea apples on the lips. He who cheats one will cheat all. When the President over whose election they now rejoice has formed his Cabinet, and placed Mr. Manning in charge of the Treasury Department, it may occur to the free-trade theorists that, after deceiving everybody else during the campaign, he is now getting ready to deceive them.

FAILED ON A POINT OF ORDER.

Mr. Randall's Navy bill has been beaten on a point of order. It was objected that it was neither legislation nor retrenchment, and on this objection it went down. It could not in any case have succeeded, for the Senate would never have consented to the establishment of so irresponsible, anomalous and expensive a Board as it proposed. It was also developed that some of Mr. Randall's party friends were opposed to it; not on the ground that it endangered the public Treasury, but lest it should take patronage (and plunder) out of the hands of President Cleveland, and make him and the Secretary of the Navy mere paymasters to the Board of Naval Bosses.

The scheme is dead, at least for the present, but we hope that its private history may be forthcoming soon, for there can be no question as to the existence of hitherto unrevealed reasons for the extraordinary somersaults performed by Mr. Randall in connection with the measure. That a man with his record for economy should have suddenly become the open sponsor for the most extravagant and unlimited scheme of squandering that has been brought forward for years is a fact requiring some more plausible explanation than has yet been offered; and the true elucidation of it would doubtless throw incidental light upon Democratic hopes, plans and expectations generally.

THE CENTRAL ASIAN QUESTION.

A dispatch from Berlin states that Russia has arranged with Persia for the construction of a military road from the Russian naval station of Ashurada, at the southeast corner of the Caspian, to Penjdeh, which lies in Afghan territory. At the same time *The London Times* has information that the Russians are advancing upon Penjdeh, and that there is consequently imminent danger of a collision between them and the Ameer's troops. This news appears to be confirmed by a dispatch to the British Government from Sir Peter Lumsden, in charge of the Afghan Boundary Commission, who reports that he has withdrawn from Bala Murghab toward Herat, to avoid being entangled in the hostilities he believes to be unavoidable. London, and in fact all England, being at present in a panic state, this news has produced fresh alarm, and it is charged that Russia has been guilty of double dealing in regard to Afghanistan. It is highly probable that this charge is true, for it is quite certain that in her Central Asian policy Russia has for years talked one way and acted another. It is now forty-seven years since she took possession of the island of Ashurada for a naval station, despite the protests of Persia. Later on she concluded that Krasnovodsk would suit her purposes better, and proceeded to entrench herself there, though

without giving up Ashurada; and throughout the intervening period she has been steadily pursuing a course which must bring her frontier to the Hindu Kush.

It is true that English statesmen have all this time persisted in disregarding warnings concerning the Russian policy in Central Asia. But there is no excuse for surprise now. It has been pointed out again and again by the highest authorities that Herat ought to be in British hands if India was to be kept safe. But to-day Russian troops are at Penjdeh, within a hundred miles of Herat; Persia stands ready to throw open her territory between the Caspian and the Murghab; a Russian railway is projected and partly built to Kizil Arvat; and thus the Muscovite base of operations is pushed so far forward that the conquest of Afghanistan can be undertaken at no distant period with confidence. Of course the Russians have no right to be at Penjdeh. Their presence there is a violation of the Ameer's territory. But if, as is highly probable, they come into collision with the Ameer's troops, the event will doubtless be utilized as an excuse for a more serious expedition. The seizure of Herat indeed may well be intended by this move on Penjdeh, and if Russia once obtains the so-called Key of India, she will not be easily dislodged.

The theory of a neutral zone has never been favored at St. Petersburg. For years the Russian press—and especially the inspired journals, such as the *Golos*—have advocated the making of the Hindu Kush the boundary between British India and Russian Central Asia. Diplomatic discussion has indeed been more cautious, but there ought never to have been a doubt in the mind of a capable observer that when in the natural course of things she came to the Afghan frontier she would cross it with a definite aggressive purpose unless Kabul was under British protection. Five years ago the garrisoning of Herat by English troops would probably have insured the maintenance of Russian neutrality for a considerable period. But to-day it may be too late for such action, and to-day also Russia is plainly repeating her Black Sea Treaty policy, and taking advantage of her rival's embarrassments. Russia at Herat—nay, even permanently at Penjdeh—means the passage of Afghanistan beyond the control of England. Mr. Gladstone's Government may defer the inevitable collision by ceding Penjdeh to Russian Turkistan; an easy matter considering that it is the territory of an independent Power; but Herat will be none the safer for such an adjustment of the boundary, and India will feel the shadow of the coming danger none the less.

So long as the Eastern question remains a source of European contention, so long must Russian proximity to British India be a constant menace; and a menace involving not only the aggression of the great Northern Power, but the organization of a new irruption of Central Asian hordes who have not forgotten the legends of Tamerlane and Genghis Khan, into that great treasure-house over which they and their ancestors have hovered and gloated for centuries. Should this ever occur some such time as the present will certainly be chosen, and then native insurrections will still further complicate the situation, and England will have to fight for her life in Hindostan.

THE DYNAMITE CONGRESS.

It seems probable, though there is no certainty about it, that some sort of a meeting of dynamiteurs has been held in Paris. When that purport to be faithful and detailed accounts of such a meeting are spread broadcast through the press, it is necessary to approach them with circumspection, since it can hardly be believed that the dynamiteurs themselves want all their councils made public, or that they are unable to prevent such publicity. But if the latter be really the case it is evident that little need be feared from a congress of such stupid conspirators, and that the leak which has exposed their discussions might be enlarged, by judicious manipulation, so as to let out all their secrets. Yet since the dynamiteurs have hitherto done much mischief, and that without betraying themselves, it may be wisest to conclude that when any account of their meetings is made public, it is done with their consent, in which case, of course, no reliance whatever can be put upon any of the statements, which should be regarded as being presented solely to mislead public opinion; and there are various features of the recent account, such as that of the revolver and the desperate determination of the assembled dynamiteurs, which are not at all credible. It is ridiculous to suppose that these people would dare to resist the French police, and they had nothing to fear from any other, English detectives having no jurisdiction in Paris, and being too well aware of the fact to attempt any interference.

It is alleged that the proposed union between the Fenians and dynamiteurs did not take place, though it is claimed that the former are in sympathy with the latter, and will help them with money. Of course if that is true, the Fenians cannot evade responsibility for the outrages committed by their friends and allies. As to the scheme to aid the Mahdi, it is possible that such a thing was proposed. If the accounts of the Congress, however, are even in part correct, the dynamiteurs are far less astute than they have been thought, and by furnishing specific grounds of procedure against themselves they will hasten the time—already plainly predictable—when every civilized government will unite to extirpate them and their kind, and there will be no possible safe headquarters or base of operations for them anywhere.

THE GALLOWES.

The horrible story of the three-times-repeated failure to hang a murderer in England ought to direct public attention, wherever the gallows is in use, to the trustworthiness of that method of inflicting capital punishment. If a careful collection were made of all the cases of false failure which have occurred in English-speaking countries even during the past twenty years, the record would shock the least sensitive. If also the cases were cited in which death on the gallows had resulted from slow strangulation, the inhumanity of the punishment would appear incontestable. That it is a clumsy, uncertain and therefore cruel mode of execution, experience shows conclusively, and it is not a little remarkable that the Latin races should have shown a higher civilization in this matter than the Anglo-Saxon. The Spanish garrote and the French guillotine are certainly more merciful than the gallows, for they destroy life, or at least consciousness, instantaneously, whereas the man who is hanged imperfectly may linger for several minutes, undergoing the pain of suffocation. The suggestion made by Governor Hill to the Legislature of this State regarding capital punishment has not as yet been acted upon, but such occurrences as that at Exeter should quicken the interest in the proposed reform sufficiently to produce at least a serious investigation of the subject.

Perhaps it is too much to expect that English conservatism will give way even to such a shock. For many years complaint has been made as to the mismanagement and consequent unnecessary cruelty of English executions, yet nothing has been done toward superseding the gallows. In the United States, however, there are no such excuses for apathy or inaction. This country has from the first been prolific of humanitarian reforms, and no appeal for changes in penal administration founded in reason has been ignored or rejected. A people whose institutions and traditions prepossess them in favor of all human rights ought long ago to have recognized the responsibility that rests on society for the swift and painless execution of capital sentences. The repudiation of the old doctrine that the society is an avenger occurred long ago, yet the retention of the gallows appears to indicate that the medieval spirit of retribution still survives, and that there is an unexpressed reluctance to part with it altogether.

But while we must admit the anachronism of execution by hanging, we must equally admit the possibility of instituting a more certain, swift and painless mode of killing our criminals. Science is full of resource in this direction, and other by potent drugs or strong currents of electricity can certainly solve this problem whatever for delaying the reform demanded, while every failure on the scaffold speaks trumpet-tongued against the barbarity and wanton inhumanity of the existing practice.

There is good news from Albany. Since his resignation of the Governorship Mr. Cleveland has begun qualifying himself for the office which he is next to assume by taking up systematically a study of the history of the United States. This is admirable. Mr. Cleveland will find great help in his studies from a work prepared for beginners by a most estimable lady of the State, Miss Willard, of Troy. In his present position he can depend upon Miss Willard's "Compendium of United States History for High School Students" as an invaluable guide.

Senator Bayard is said to be the most consummate cook on the continent when it comes to terrapin. But Manning held him when it comes to terrapin a contesting delegation that is opposed to the Democratic machine.

There are to be court revels in Dublin after a long silence. The Prince and Princess of Wales are to visit the city and hold a reception in the Castle, and subsequently they will make an extended tour of the island. Their presence will be a signal for demonstrations of loyal feeling and hearty respect. Their visit will be a political event, made as it is after a period of persistent agitation and following closely the recent outrages in Westminster and the Tower of London. We believe that it will have an excellent effect in promoting good feeling between England and Ireland. In London it is considered a hazardous experiment, and the Prince is complimented upon his courage and pluck in exposing himself in the city where Lord Frederick Cavendish was murdered. He will be well received, we are sure, by the Irish population. They have no quarrel with the Queen's household. They will welcome him with cordiality and respect, tokens of their appreciation of the confidence which he reposes in them.

Mr. Cleveland gets an ugly blow between the eyes in the compliments of *The Rochester Union*. That paper is cruel enough to strive to make its readers believe that the President-elect approves of Mr. Dorsheimer's Silver bill. We submit that *The Union* is carrying its hostility to Mr. Cleveland too far.

The Evening Post after suspending publication from Saturday until Tuesday returns to its abuse of Senator Bayard with renewed vigor. When one reads that Mr. Bayard's election has been once recommended alike by political friend and foe, it is difficult to account for *The Post's* course in regard to him save on one theory. If its editor yearns for substantial recognition at the hands of the next Administration he may conclude that to pitch into Mr. Bayard is to play a trump card. But can it be that the heart of Mr. Cleveland is to be won by such tactics?

It was an illustrious conference that took place at Mr. Cleveland's on Monday, when Lucius Quintus Curtius Lamar, Carl Schurz, Daniel Manning and Smith M. Weed were gathered there. Just what lesson was being taught the Presidential pupil is left to a wide range of conjecture. It may have been the story of Jeff Davis the Patriot that was dramatically spread before him. It may be that he was told how to manage the Interior Department so that its occupants might "stand in" with the great railroads on going out of office. Or it may have been political strategy and trading or cipher dispatches that were under consideration. Whatever the topic of discussion, the gathering was a remarkable mixture of political chicanery, sham reform and Southern fire-eating such as only Democratic victory could involve.

Colonel McClure, of *The Philadelphia Times*, denies the report that he "will shortly lay down the editorial pen to don the clerical robes." The denial is well calculated to depress the spirits of sundry Louisiana patriots who earn their living by the sweat of the people that buy lottery tickets.

Mr. Hendricks has been presented with a beautiful gavel made of eight pieces of Indiana hickory. It is said to be an exquisite piece of workmanship, and yet we suspect that if Hendricks could induce Cleveland to swap places with him, he would give him the gavel to boot and add another piece of hickory.

Thurman (at the telephone).—Hello! Cleveland, hello!
Cleveland.—Hello! Who are you?
Thurman.—I'm Allen G. Thurman, of Ohio.
Cleveland.—Well, what can I do for you, Mr. Thurman?
Thurman.—Oh, nothing, nothing. I thought perhaps you had called and I hadn't heard you.
Cleveland.—Oh, well, no, I haven't called you.
Thurman.—Ah, of course. However, I'll keep my ear close to the telephone from now on to March 4th, so that in case you should want to call me I—
Cleveland (breaking in).—Good bye, I must return to my inaugural.

A Chicago man was elected president of the Citizens' Law and Order League of the United States the other day. In the interest of the League's success it is to be hoped that he will not feel any delicacy in confining its operations to his own town for the next ten years. In that time a beginning will have been made and some idea can be formed of how the League will work.

Mr. Schurz probably went to Albany to tell the President that he does not want an office. For the sake of the President-elect's pocket we hope the ex-Secretary didn't make a speech.

Be it far from us to raise any serious objection if Commissioner Squire wants to be a poet, though such a tendency is a little disconcerting. But we do insist that he shall be more precise when he writes verses like this:

O, sing, and all my tears shall cease,
And grief forget its name;
As 'neath thy touch the chords pour forth
Those dear old harmonies.

Such a promise as this goes entirely too far. Suppose the "dear old harmonies" were airs from Pinafore, or "Sweet Violets," does Mr. Squire mean to say that he fears forgetting its sighs, would not grief, so far from forgetting its sighs, would not rather resort to every means to express its grief? If Mr. Squire is a man of such meek and lowly spirit as his verses indicate, he is not the man to grapple with the \$8000 contract funds of the Public Works Department. They might be besieged him with hand-organ and harmonize him into such an accommodating ecstasy with "Molly Darling" and "The Old Black Joe" that he would sign contracts as fast as they could be beat time. Mr. Squire's poetry foreshadows a public danger, whose effect on the taxpayer is far different from that which the dear old tunes have on him.

The Hon. Frank James, highly esteemed in social and political circles of the West as an earnest murderer and a progressively a bandit, has again escaped the clutches of a despicable law and rejoices in the free light of heaven. It is understood that he has intimated to the Governor of Missouri that he is in the hands of his friends.

bothered to discover any sane reason why brewers should oppose the bill, and, in point of fact, we don't believe that honest brewers do oppose it. It protects that portion of the trade who manufacture a healthful and decent beverage against the competition of men who produce a cheaper stuff from filthy compounds. Brewers who do a square business ought to support this measure.

To Olive Branch.—In your letter accepting your party's nomination for the Presidency you expressed yourself in favor of an amendment to the Constitution "disqualifying the President for reelection." Are we to understand, then, that you positively decline to be regarded as a possible candidate for reelection? Is your inaugural address to contain a paragraph to that effect? Or are you opposed to taking your own medicine?

A correspondent oozes much of *The World's* more or less valuable space telling us that "Thurman in the Cabinet" would mean. We can tell that in a line, it would mean that Dan Manning had lost his grip.

To Olive Branch.—Yes, it is to be feared that the Cleveland-Doolittle relations have become somewhat strained.

PERSONAL.

Over the mantelpiece in the library of Frederick Eden, of Washington, D. C., hangs an ancient portrait of his ancestor, Hon. Lewis Latham, Falconer of His Majesty Charles I. Lewis Latham was cousin to that gallant Earl of Derby and King of Man who laid down his life for his king at Bolton on the Moor, and whose countess, Isabella, distinguished herself by her defence of Latham House against the forces of Cromwell. Lewis Latham's daughter came with her second husband, Jeremiah Clarke, to the Colony of Rhode Island, and in that State many of her descendants now live.

Ex-Judge Doolittle, of Wisconsin, is a man of medium size with broad shoulders, and a rich, sonorous voice. He is so extremely democratic that if he can avoid it he will not go on the platform of the hall wherein he speaks during a political canvass, but prefers to stand on a level with his audience, generally supporting himself by a chair.

Mr. Joseph Swan, the electric light inventor, is described as a tall, handsome, North of England man, of more than middle age, with a Jove-like cast of head waving with long gray locks, and a pair of penetrating eyes gleaming from beneath bushy gray brows. His home, Larnston, at Bromley, England, is probably more completely equipped with electric devices than any man in the world.

Osman Digna's original name was Alphonse Vinet, he being a full-blooded Frenchman. He was at one time sold as a slave to Mohammed Ahmed el Mahdi, but quickly rose in that prophet's favor and became his son-in-law. He is now about fifty years old.

Osman Digna says El Mahdi intends to restore the whole Nile Valley, from source to mouth, to Mohammedan control, and after he has taken Cairo he will send envoys to Constantinople inviting the Sultan to form an alliance with him against all Christians.

HAYANA, Feb. 24.—The yacht *Atlantida*, with Jay Gould and party, arrived here yesterday from Wilmington, N. C.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

The Democratic discovery that Mr. Bayard "stands up so straight that he leans six inches back" is not of a nature to harmonize the conflicting elements that find a Mecca in Albany.

A novel temptation, movement has been begun in a Georgia town, where the liquor dealers intend to "boycott" a large number of men who drink to excess, each dealer to forfeit \$50 if he sells to any man on the black list.—New York Herald.

It is presumed that at Monday's conference between Carl Schurz, Smith M. Weed, Mr. Lamar and Daniel Manning, Mr. Schurz explained fully how the Department of the Interior can be handled to make a man's calling sure after he retires from office—provided the stock market holds out.

One of the most remarkable oils yet discovered is that found in the Arago oil basin. In this territory, in a shaft put down on the east side of Lake Creek to a depth of twelve feet, six drops of an exceptionally high specific gravity. It is, when first exposed, of a brownish color, but will cut out with a knife like soft butter. It gradually turns black on exposure. It has little odor when it first comes from the shaft, though what escapes on the south side of the adjoining ridge has a slight piquancy, which it loses on exposure.—Cuyahoga (Young) Tribune.

A New-York firm purloined to Abraham Lincoln some years before he became President as to the financial standing of one of his neighbors. Mr. Lincoln replied as follows: "Years of the 10th inst. received. I am well acquainted with Mr. Lincoln, and know his circumstances. First of all, he has a wife and baby; together they ought to be worth \$50,000 to any man. Secondly, he has an office in which there is a table worth \$150, and three chairs worth \$1. Last of all there is in one corner a large rat-hole which will bear looking into. Respectfully yours.—A. LINCOLN."

Mr. Cleveland should beware of Dan